GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4987
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000
INDIA`S STAND ON NUCLEAR DOCTRINE
SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of U.S. President Bill Clinton to India Government asserted that India has the right to maintain a minimum nuclear-deterrent;

(b) if so, whether the precise nature and extent of minimum nuclear deterrent has been defined or discussed with the U.S. team or otherwise conceptualised;

(c) if so, the broad features thereof;

(d) whether a Nuclear Command and Control System has since been worked out; and

(e) if so, the broad details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Yes Sir. India`s decision is also reflected in the Vision Statement signed by the Prime Minister and U.S President Bill Clinton.

(b), (c) India and the US are engaged in an ongoing dialogue on security, non-proliferation and disarmament issues. This dialogue is predicated on India maintaining a minimum credible nuclear deterrent. India`s minimum deterrent is not a fixed quantification, it is a policy approach dictated and determined in the context of our security environment.

(d) & (e) India is committed to exercise strict civilian control over its nuclear assets. India has standard safety procedures and practices for the manufacture, transportation, storage and use of stores containing explosive substances and for the handling of nuclear materials. The system of civilian control and technical management of nuclear materials is updated as and when required, in the light of contemporary needs.